

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1 - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (New) 5. An HMI ballast comprising a split mode operation wherein the ballast operates as an inverter part of the time and operates as a direct converter part of the time; the ballast employing a plurality of switch modes to successively modulate one or more of a plurality of switches and diodes; whereby line voltage and current are controlled to provide a substantially square wave voltage and current output.